

## NOTES AND COMMENTS

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### NEOTYPE DESIGNATION FOR *RANATRA AMERICANA EDENTULA* MONTANDON (HETEROPTERA: NEPIDAE)

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#### *Ranatra fusca* Palisot de Beauvois

*Ranatra fusca* Palisot de Beauvois, 1820; *Insectes recueillis en Afrique et en Amérique*, . . . p. 235.

*Ranatra americana* Montandon, 1910, *Bull. Soc. Roum. Sci.* 19:65. (Synonymized by Hungerford, 1922, *Kansas Univ. Sci. Bull.* 14:436.)

*Ranatra americana* var. *edentula* Montandon, 1910, *Bull. Soc. Roum. Sci.* 19:66. (Synonymized by Sites and Polhemus, 1994, *Ann. Ent. Soc. Am.* 87:33.)

*Ranatra fusca* var. *edentula*: Hungerford, 1922, *Kansas Univ. Sci. Bull.* 14:447.

The variety *edentula* was proposed by Montandon (1910, as *americana edentula*) for those populations lacking the preapical tooth on the fore femur, said to occur in Pennsylvania and Texas. The two female specimens of this variety were said by Montandon (*loc. cit.*) to be in his collection. Because varieties were not recognized as having species group standing in those early times (now changed, see below), it is doubtful if Montandon would have labelled these specimens as types. The data for the Pennsylvania specimen were given as "Pennsylvanie, H. G. Klages" but for the Texas specimen no collection data were given. The latter he said was given to him from the Stockholm Museum as one of the examples attributed by Stål to *R. fusca*.

Pennsylvania is well within the range of the nominate subspecies but Texas is not, and it is likely that the specimen from the latter is *R. australis* Hungerford (1922:449). It is remotely possible that the Pennsylvania specimen is *R. buenoi* Hungerford (1922:442), although it seems unlikely that Montandon, a careful worker, would have overlooked the profound sulcus on the prothoracic venter of *buenoi*. Both *australis* and *buenoi* were described twelve years after Montandon's *edentula*, and both of the former names are now well established in the literature. Because varieties described before 1960 have standing as species group names according to the 1985 Code of the ICZN, the names *australis* and *buenoi* are at risk as possible junior synonyms of *edentula* unless the latter is definitely established to be a variety of *fusca*. Further, Sites and Polhemus (1994) have prepared a review of this group in an effort to stabilize the nomenclature of North American *Ranatra*, establishing the variety *edentula* (*sensu* Hungerford, 1922) as a junior synonym of *fusca*.

Two specimens of *R. fusca* from Pennsylvania collected by Klages were loaned by the Carnegie Museum of Natural History. Neither of these has the reduced distal tooth of the fore femur, thus neither is suitable for a neotype of *edentula*. It is likely however that Montandon's specimen came from this series. The expression of the femoral tooth is variable within series as noted by Hungerford (1922), who questioned the validity of the variety *edentula*, and by Sites and Polhemus (1994) who found a

complete size range of distal fore femoral teeth in a single long series from Colorado, from very weak to very pronounced.

Texas specimens of *R. australis* received from the Swedish Museum of Natural History, collected by Belfrage, were held under *R. fusca* in that collection, and one bears a label in Montandon's handwriting "Ranatra fusca Pall d. B., A. L. Montandon 97." Dr. Per Lindskog (pers. comm.) believes that the Texas specimen of *R. americana edentula* came from this series, but this is conjecture until we find the specimen labelled as such by Montandon. Montandon was confused about the true identity of *R. fusca* and in 1910 gave it the unnecessary new name *R. americana*. It remained for Hungerford (1922) to establish firmly the identity of *R. fusca*.

Horn and Kahle (1936) state that Montandon sold his collection of Cryptocera (water bugs) to the British Museum, but it is not clear whether this sale included material only up to 1901, or to 1911. The types of *R. americana edentula* are not in that museum according to the curatorial staff. Dr. I. M. Kerzhner (pers. comm.) says that Montandon sold various parts of his water bug collection at different times, but that the species described during the latter part of his working career (which declined after 1913) were mostly held in the "Grigore Antipa" Museum of Natural History, Bucharest. A single specimen of *R. australis* Hungerford was received from this museum, labelled "Texas," and identified by Montandon as *R. fusca*, and the curator Dr. Stanesco informs me that there is no material of *R. americana edentula* in that museum. Mr. I. Sienkiewicz (1964) prepared a catalog of the A. L. Montandon Collection of Palaearctic Heteroptera preserved in this museum, but the promised catalog of the remainder of the collection was never published. Mr. Sienkiewicz says that he has no further information on the *Nepomorpha* of Montandon.

I believe that the unsuccessful search for the type material of *Ranatra americana edentula* Montandon, which involved the major museums of North America and Europe, plus the measures described above, justify the designation of a neotype. A neotype is therefore designated here for *Ranatra americana edentula* Montandon (= *Ranatra fusca edentula* Montandon; see synonymy above), and the type locality is restricted to Pennsylvania. This action is justified by the need to stabilize the nomenclature for the species *Ranatra fusca* Palisot de Beauvois and *R. australis* Hungerford. The neotype chosen, a male collected in Pennsylvania, bears the following labels: 1) A handwritten label "Travers Creek, Beaver Co., Pa., VII.21.1933"; 2) A printed label "Ranatra fusca Palisot Beauvois, Det. D. V. Bennett"; 3) A pink handwritten label "NEOTYPE, Ranatra americana edentula Montandon, J. T. Polhemus 1993." The neotype is of the opposite sex from that described by Montandon because the "*edentula*" form is not present in the females available from Pennsylvania; this choice is permitted by the 1985 Code [75 (d) (4)]. The neotype has been placed in the Carnegie Museum of Natural History.—*John T. Polhemus, University of Colorado Museum, 3115 S. York St., Englewood, Colorado 80110.*

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**PREDATION BY *CLIVINEMA COALINGA* BLIVEN  
(HETEROPTERA: MIRIDAE: DERAEOCORINAE: CLIVINEMINI)  
OF *ORTHEZIA ANNAE* COCKERELL  
(STERNORRHYNCHA: ORTHEZIIDAE)**

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Knight (1928:34) mentioned that *Clivinema sericea* Knight is a predator of *Orthezia* sp., quoting unattributed label data of the type series. He also suggested that some members of the genus must be predators of scales and mealybugs (Knight, 1928:36). Other mention of *Clivinema* is restricted to descriptions of included taxa (see Van Duzee, 1917:363; Henry and Froeschner, 1988:273). Therefore, a biological observation of another species is presented.

On 29 April 1980 RSM observed a population of *Orthezia annae* Cockerell on *Atriplex polycarpa* (Torr.) Wats. in the remnants of a San Joaquin saltbush community (Barbour and Major, 1977) at Kettleman City, Kings Co., California. Close examination revealed mirids, *Clivinema coalinga* Bliven (1966), which initially were not readily apparent among the similarly colored scales. A sample of the scale, its host, and the mirid were placed in a collection container and taken back to the lab. The next morning the mirid adults and nymphs were observed feeding on the scales. RSM returned to the same locality on 20 May 1980 and confirmed that *C. coalinga* is a predator of *Orthezia* scales under natural conditions.

Voucher specimens of *C. coalinga* are in the collections of Texas A&M University (TAMU), the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), and RSM. Scale